

Restaurants that love WINE

A Place in the Sun

Goa based La Plage now at Sula Vineyards in Nashik

We are an awesome threesome, I'm the spoon, Morgan is the fork and Florence is the knife of our business," says Serge Lozano.

Morgan Rainforth, Florence Tarbouriech and Serge Lozano, the French trio behind the well-known north Goa, beachfront restaurant, La Plage have opened a new outlet, Soleil by La Plage (which translates to Sun by the Beach) at Sula Vineyards in Nashik. This takes the culinary offering by Sula to a higher level and is yet another reason for the wine tourists who throng Nashik to get a glimpse of India's "Napa Valley".

The ever smiling, passionate and very creative Florence has created a charming space from a 7,000 sq ft expanse. Diners should be warned that they will find it very difficult to leave. Lunches might become three-hour affairs filled with amazing food, good wine and conversation. Lovely pastel shades combine with the open layout and subtle décor to create a relaxing ambience. Wine crates, pallets and bottles have been used to make tables and chandeliers, and colourful, funky paintings adorn every wall. Comfortable couches, books and recycled artwork in cozy corners contribute to the overall charm of the place. Each arrangement of furniture is unique. Fresh sunlight and mellow breezes flow freely through the restaurant.

Soleil's menu offers classic French dishes including the most popular ones from La Plage, along with Chef Morgan's take on the classics of Indian cuisine. Morgan has been living in India along with Florence and Serge for 17 years and is well versed with the Indian palate. The menu has been created keeping in mind tourists and visitors with varied tastes and has something for everyone. A defining feature of the menu is the extensive use of fresh organic produce grown on the estate. With ingredients like asparagus, goat's cheese, free-range chicken and much more, Soleil by La Plage presents a true "farm to fork" dining experience for the first time in India. Many of the dishes on the menu use Sula wines in their preparation.

"Five years ago I had a dream that I would open a branch of La Plage at Sula," says founder and CEO, Rajeev Samant, as



Top and above: Soleil by La Plage interior – relaxed ambience.
Below: Rajeev Samant, Florence Tarbouriech, Serge Lozano, Cecilia Oldne and Morgan Rainforth outside the new restaurant



we drink the newly released 2013 Chenin Blanc Reserve with Kerry Damskey, Sula's master winemaker who was present for the restaurant opening. "It took me three years to persuade the owners," Samant continues. "Finally the dream came through and now we have taken things to the next level as we always do at Sula." ❖

— Suneeta Sodhi Kanga

Personal Recommendation

What to Know

Relaxed old-world ambience

What to eat

French classics

What to drink

Sula Chenin Blanc Reserve

How much

₹1,500 for two, without liquor

Soleil by La Plage, Sula Vineyards,
Govardhan Village, Off Gangapur-
Savargaon Road, Nashik 422 222
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